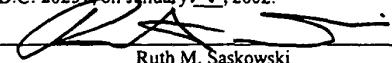


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 17, 2002.


Ruth M. Saskowski

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Alessandro Sette, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/189,702

Filing Date: 10 November 1998

For: HLA BINDING PEPTIDES AND
THEIR USES

Examiner: Ronald B. Schwadron, Ph.D.

Group Art Unit: 1644

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein mailed 20 July 2001, time for response to which was set to expire 20 October 2001. A petition for an extension of time of three (3) months until 20 January 2002 is attached hereto, along with the required fee. The considered claims, claims 7-11 and 16-17 were rejected. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Enclosed is the following Exhibit A: Marked-up Version of Amendments to the Claims.